



# Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board

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To: Representative Martha Heath, Chair, Committee on Appropriations

From: Theodore W. Marcy, MD MPH, Chair, Tobacco Evaluation & Review Board

Date: April 24, 2008

Re: H.891, Section 5.211(b)(3), Tobacco Cessation Programs

As passed by the House of Representatives, H.891, Section 5.211(b) (3), \$1,400,211 would be appropriated to the Department of Health for tobacco cessation programs in FY2009. The house version earmarked a portion of this line item, including \$110,000 for programs that serve pregnant women who smoke. **The Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board recommends that the Legislature appropriate funding for the state's comprehensive tobacco control program without earmarks.**

## The Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board's Role

The Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board, was created by the Legislature in 2000 to establish program criteria and review and evaluate the state's comprehensive tobacco control program. The board, in collaboration with the Department of Health and an independent program evaluator, develops annual program recommendations for the Governor and the Legislature.

## The Board's Recommendation: Background

Earmarks undermine the process established by the Legislature in forming this board. Each board member, an expert in their field, devotes a great deal of time, effort and energy to balance competing demands with limited resources. It is important that this process continue in order to make progress toward Vermont's established goal of reducing the adult smoking rate to 11% by the year 2010. Vermont's adult smoking rate is currently at 18%.

Thank you.

CC: Representative Peter Hunt  
Representative Robert Helm

*An independent board established by and accountable to the Legislature  
for evaluation of tobacco prevention, cessation and control programs in Vermont*